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## Discrete Applied Mathematics

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## Foreword



Photo: Nadia Brauner, IMAG, Grenoble

This Special Issue contains some of the contributions that were presented at the GO V meeting (Graphs and Optimization, 5th conference) held in Leukerbad in the Swiss Alps in August 2006. The colloquium was set up to celebrate the seventieth birthday of Peter Hammer and Jakob Krarup who were both born in 1936. More than fifty invited researchers in discrete optimization from all over the world gathered in this attractive mountain village to honour these two pioneers of their favorite investigation field.

The audience was captivated by the presentation of Peter Hammer in which he described how his contributions in LAD (logical analysis of data) could provide an extremely efficient tool for medical diagnosis, which he illustrated by exhibiting impressive clinical data.

In another plenary session, Jakob Krarup explained to the participants how an innocent mathematical game presented in a Danish newspaper in 2003 could raise very deep mathematical questions and open numerous interesting research avenues.

Besides their various scientific contributions, a sample of which appears in this issue, the participants had an opportunity to express to both honorees their admiration, their gratitude, and their feelings of deep friendship in a memorable evening program which took place high up in the mountains, more precisely in the upper station of a cable car installation.

The selection of papers in this Special Issue is quite representative of the presentations made at the meeting and reflects well the diversity of Peter's and Jakob's research interests: of these 13 papers, three deal with stable sets (Lozin and Milanic; Aouchiche, Brinkmann, and Hansen; Chung and Demange), three with other graph theoretical problems (Ekim, Hell, Stacho, and de Werra; Hertz, Plumettaz, and Zufferey; Blazewicz, Kasprzak, Leroy-Beaulieu, and de Werra), two with graph algorithms for quadratic programming (Scozzari and Tardella) and partial order sets (Dereniowski), three with scheduling (Chrétienne; Brucker and Kampmeyer; Brauner) and one each with pseudo-Boolean functions (Simeone) and classification problems (Adem, Crama, Gochet, and Spieksma).

It was with infinite sadness that we heard a few months after this conference that Peter Hammer had died in a car accident shortly after celebrating his seventieth birthday (which was on December 23). It is to his memory that we dedicate this issue – in recognition of the enormous influence and the fruitful inspiration that his works in many fields of discrete optimization had on all of us.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to the various organizations and institutions that have supported this colloquium; we are grateful that the Etat du Valais has honored us by delegating Mr. Claude Roch, the minister of education of the Canton, to welcome the participants in Leukerbad. The generous support of the ASRO (Swiss Operational Research Society), of the FNS (Swiss National Research Council), and of the 3e cycle romand de recherche opérationnelle is gratefully acknowledged. Besides this the Tourist Office of Leukerbad is also to be thanked for its support in fluid logistics. Finally,

we express our gratitude to the EPFL (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne) and to the University of Fribourg for their contributions in terms of human resources among other things.

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